

Daily GLOWBUGS

Digest: V1 #86

via AB4EL Web Digests @ SunSITE

Purpose: building and operating vacuum tube-based QRP rigs

[AB4EL Ham Radio Homepage @ SunSITE](#)

%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%%

Subject: glowbugs V1 #86

glowbugs

Tuesday, August 5 1997

Volume 01 : Number 086

Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 07:34:10 -0700 (MST)

From: Chris Trask <ctrask@primenet.com>

Subject: Re: The Flagstaff Hamfest

On Sun, 3 Aug 1997, Ken Lopez wrote:

> Jeff Duntemann wrote:

>

>

> > Generally, not good news. This was the least-well-attended Flagstaff
> > hamfest of the many I've been to, both in terms of vendors and >
> > There wasn't much vintage gear on display, and what was there seemed
> > overpriced for the condition it was in. Keys were nearly absent, except
> > for a couple of tables catering to collectors, asking \$50 for grimy
> > J-38's. If I was a kid trying to put a cheap CW station together, I'd
> > be out of luck.

> >

>

> I have only been attending Ft. Tuthill for five years, but this year was
> much better than last, when the Tax men scared everyone away. I noticed
> that this year, moreso than before, much of the "good stuff" was gone by
> noon on Friday. I always am there at dawn when the vendors are setting
> up. Since this process goes on most of the day, Friday is the best day
> to pick up vintage gear, parts, etc. By Saturday afternoon, when it
> began to rain, most of the goodies were gone, and folks were packing up.
>

I had forgotten about the TaxMan scare of last year, but you're right, there were considerably fewer flea market vendors last year. This year, however, there were few indoor vendors, the barn on the north side of the area being empty, as well as most of the hall on the north side of the commercial building.

The bargains are usually best found on Friday, and the earlier

Hi gang--

Awhile back at my sister in law's subdivision garage sale, I bought a hot glue gun. It's a great gadget, and the glue is surprisingly strong coming out of something that looks for all the world like a crayon. I bought it to stick some peeling formica back onto a table edge, but it did such a good job on that that I'm now considering it for other things. Important question: What are the RF properties of the polymer used in hot glue? Could I use it to immobilize a small VHF coil on a PC board? Tack down toroids? Chemistry is one of my blind spots, so if any of you chemically inclined guys could give me a reading I'd appreciate it.

- --73--

- --Jeff Duntemann KG7JF
Scottsdale, Arizona

Date: Mon, 04 Aug 1997 12:08:08 -0400
From: Ben Bradley <bradley@norcross.mcs.slb.com>
Subject: Re: RF Properties of Hot Glue

I've used hot glue for non-RF projects (sealing up stereo speaker cabinets), but not as you described. You can try the 'microwave oven' test I've read about here and/or boatanchors, originally described to determine the RF properties of PVC pipe:

Put a big blob of hot glue onto a piece of paper (or something transparent to microwaves, such as an old glass plate you're going to throw away) and let it cool to room temperature. Put it and a cup of water (to put a load on the microwave) into a microwave oven, and run it on high for two or three minutes (or until something starts to happen to the hot glue...). If at the end of that time the stuff is still at room temperature, it's perfectly good for microwave frequencies, and probably (though I'm not sure that transmission/absorption won't change at different frequency ranges) good for HF and VHF too.

At 08:37 AM 8/4/97 -0700, Jeff Duntemann wrote:

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>glue gun. It's a great gadget, and the glue is surprisingly strong coming
>out of something that looks for all the world like a crayon. I bought it
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>

>--73--

>

>--Jeff Duntemann KG7JF
> Scottsdale, Arizona

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Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 13:51:55 -0500
From: ac5am@juno.com (Robert L Stolzle)
Subject: Wanted: Heathkit DX-20

Hello All,

I am looking for a DX-20. This was my first transmitter back in '58.

If anyone has one that is in good shape and wants to part with it please let me know.

Send e-mail direct. Include phone number also if you like and I will reply via e-mail or phone.

73, Bob AC5AM

Date: Mon, 04 Aug 1997 13:01:05 -0400
From: Steve Ellington <n4lq@iglou.com>
Subject: Re: RF Properties of Hot Glue

Recently I built a TenTec qrp rig and the vfo torroid coil had to be glued down to the circuit board. I used hot glue and the frequency change was only a few cycles after it dried. Getting your finger near the coil caused a major change. Hope this tells you something. This was at 40mtrs not VHF though

N4LQ Steve

Jeff Duntemann wrote:

> Hi gang--
>
> Awhile back at my sister in law's subdivision garage sale, I bought a
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> glue gun. It's a great gadget, and the glue is surprisingly strong
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> inclined guys could give me a reading I'd appreciate it.
>
> --73--
>
> --Jeff Duntemann KG7JF
> Scottsdale, Arizona

Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 17:42:36 -0700 (PDT)
From: Bob Okas <vintage@best.com>
Subject: Re: RF Properties of Hot Glue

Hi Gang,

Glowbug builders scouring the countryside in search of Miniductor should take note of an article in this month's QST regarding homebrewing your own bare-wire, solenoid coils. The author used two-part epoxy, which while taking a little longer to set than hot glue, apparently has good RF properties at least in the HF range.

73,
Bob - W3CD
Palo Altoid, CA

Date: Tue, 5 Aug 1997 06:08:02 -0800
From: herr@ridgecrest.ca.us (Michael Herr)
Subject: Regen coupling

Ok gang, a question,

I've been fussing with my GR-81 Heathkit regen, doing some various mods. The heathkit has an option for either magnetic coupling of the antenna or capacitive. I have fussed with the coupling cap, going from a 12pf mica to a 3 turn gimmick (about 3 pf) with good results. In all this I have found that sometimes the magnetic coupling works better than the capacitive, and other conditions the capcitive does, all with the same antenna. The capacitive coupling certainly does better as far as the swinging antenna syndrom is concerned. So the question is, which do you all feel is better and that I should pursue more? My present thinking is the capacitive, perhaps with a variable so I can tweak it. What you all think?

vy 73
Mike WA6ARA

Date: Tue, 05 Aug 1997 10:11:12 -0400
From: Roy Morgan <morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov>
Subject: D-104, is crystal or ceramic better?

Globuggers and Anchorites,

My D-104 seems to be dead, and I plan to order a new element for it.

Any preferences between the crystal and ceramic elements?

For Astatic information (the distributor):

<http://www.ctiaudio.com/>

To order products (one dealer, CB stuff mostly):

<http://www.tigerpaw.com/thomasdt/index.html-ssi>

Keep em Glowing!

Roy, K1LKY since 1959

- -- Roy Morgan/Building 820, Room 562/Gaithersburg MD 20899
(National Institute of Standards and Technology, formerly NBS)
301-975-3254 Fax: 301-948-6213 morgan@speckle.ncsl.nist.gov --

Date: Tue, 5 Aug 1997 10:37:59 +0000 (GMT)

From: Jim Glover <psykey@okcforum.org>

Subject: HW-101 ...weak tubes?

Hi, everyone!

I'm looking forward to enjoying the glowbugs list.

Weekend before last, I bought a Heathkit HW-101 at the hamfest here in Oklahoma City, for \$100. The price was low, because it's no longer putting out full power. The guy who sold it to me believed that the finals or driver must be getting weak. Since getting to know it, I've decided that the driver and/or finals are not the only weak tubes. There are apparently one or more weak tubes associated with receiving.

The reduced power doesn't concern me. My wattmeter tops out at 100 watts, and I don't have any trouble pushing the CW output power beyond that. That should be enough power. However, the receiver seems to be weak, and that's more of a problem. Here are some of the symptoms:

- --The strongest signals on the band show about S6. Only the remarkably strong signals move the S-meter at all.
- --Backing off of the RF gain pushes the S-meter only up to about S6, where it stops advancing as the RF gain is reduced further.
- --Every few minutes, the receiver output begins to fade away, dropping to complete silence within a few seconds. Changing the mode switch to another mode and back will usually restore normal operation (normal for this receiver, anyway).

These symptoms lead me to believe that one or more tubes associated with the receiver are weak. Do any of you know the HW-101 and its internal workings intimately enough to speculate about which tubes I should suspect? How should I proceed with troubleshooting this? Should I attempt to guess which tube(s) may be getting weak, and just swap 'em out and try it again, to see if I guessed right? Is any sort of re-alignment needed after replacing tubes?

Also... in general, how goes the availability of tubes for ham gear in general, and the HW-101 specifically? Where should I look for tubes for the HW-101?

Thanks in advance for any pointers you can give me!

- --Jim WB5UDE

End of glowbugs V1 #86

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